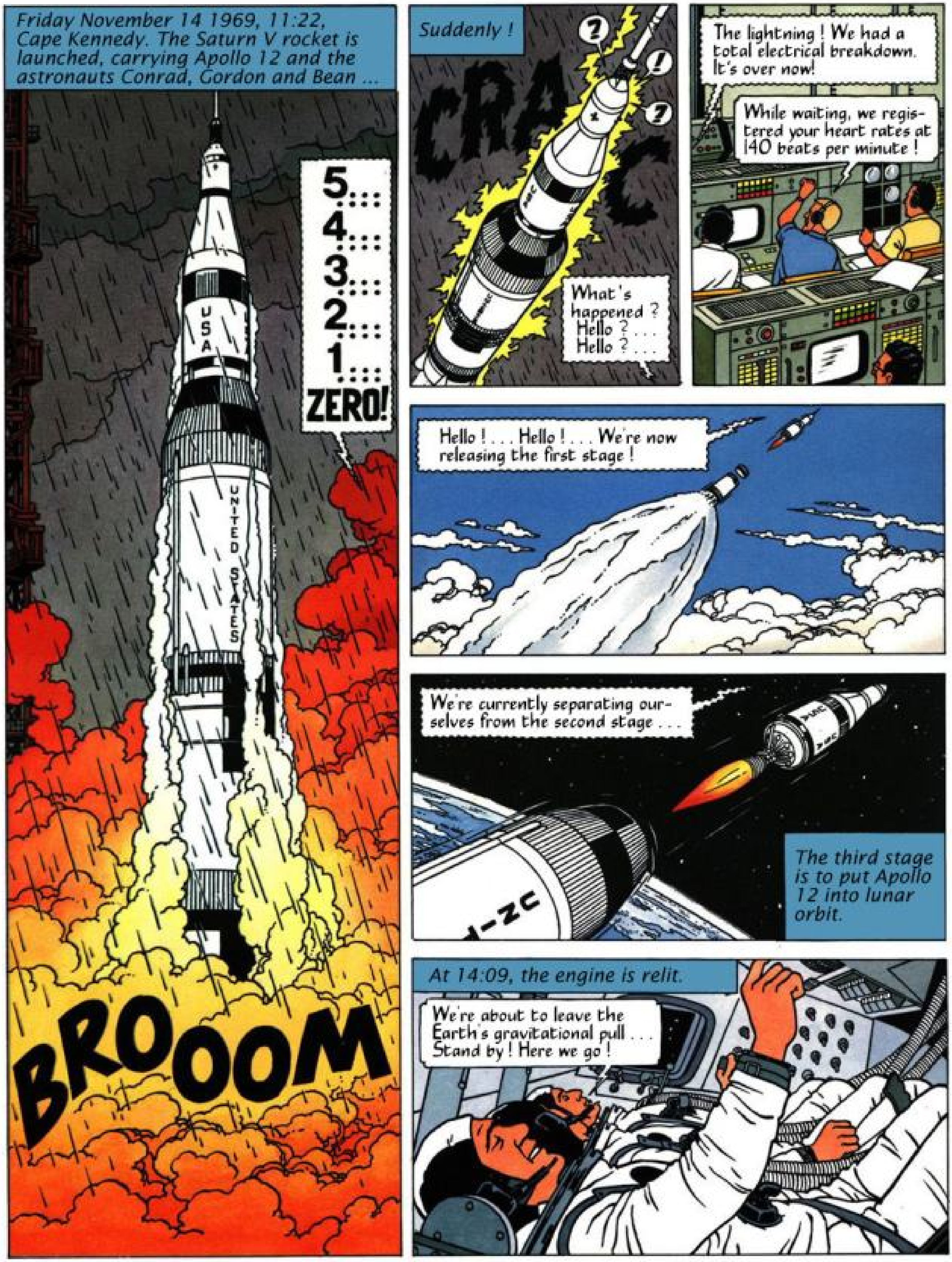
TINTIN

THEY EXPLORED THE MOON

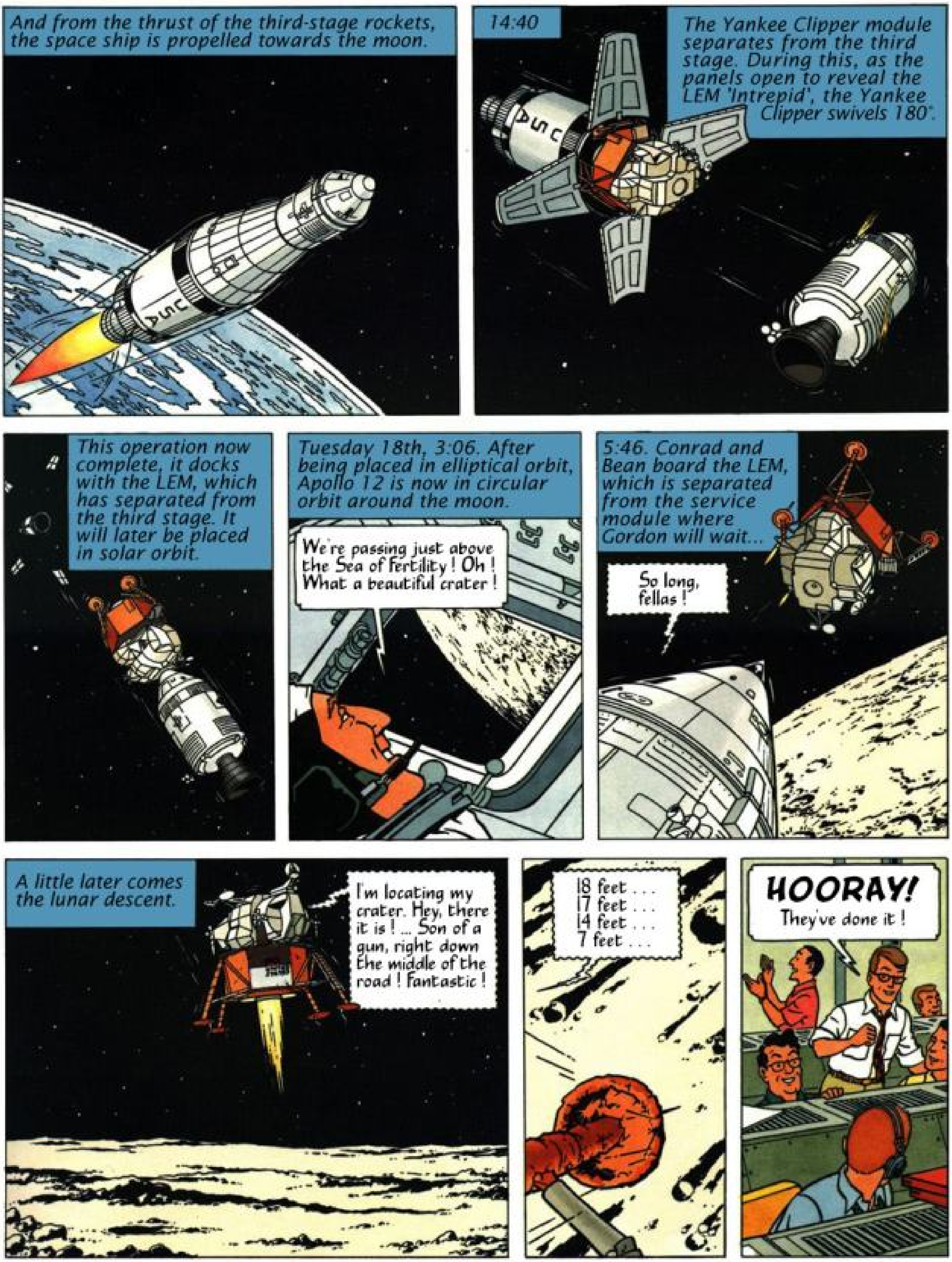
FROM FICTION TO REALITY



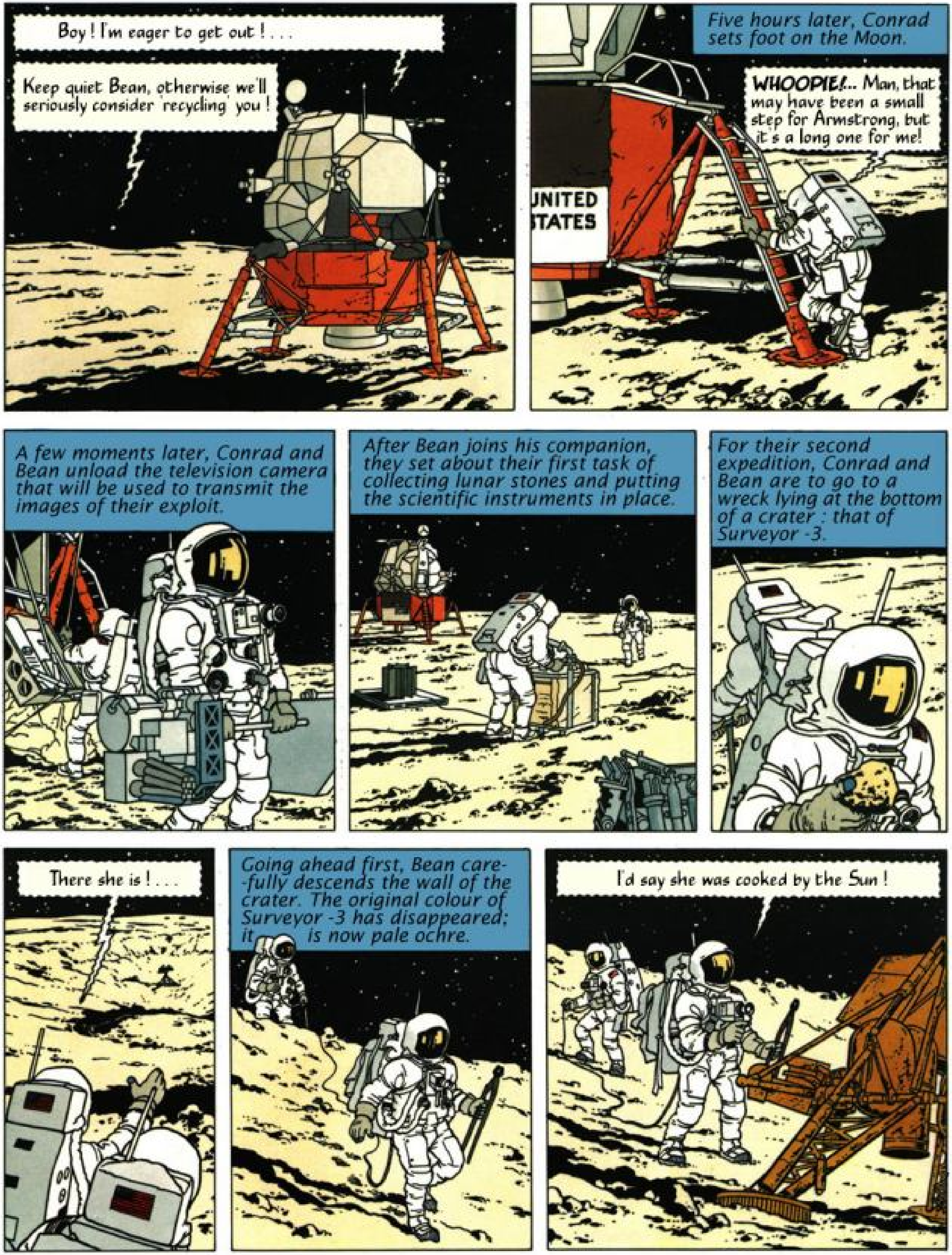


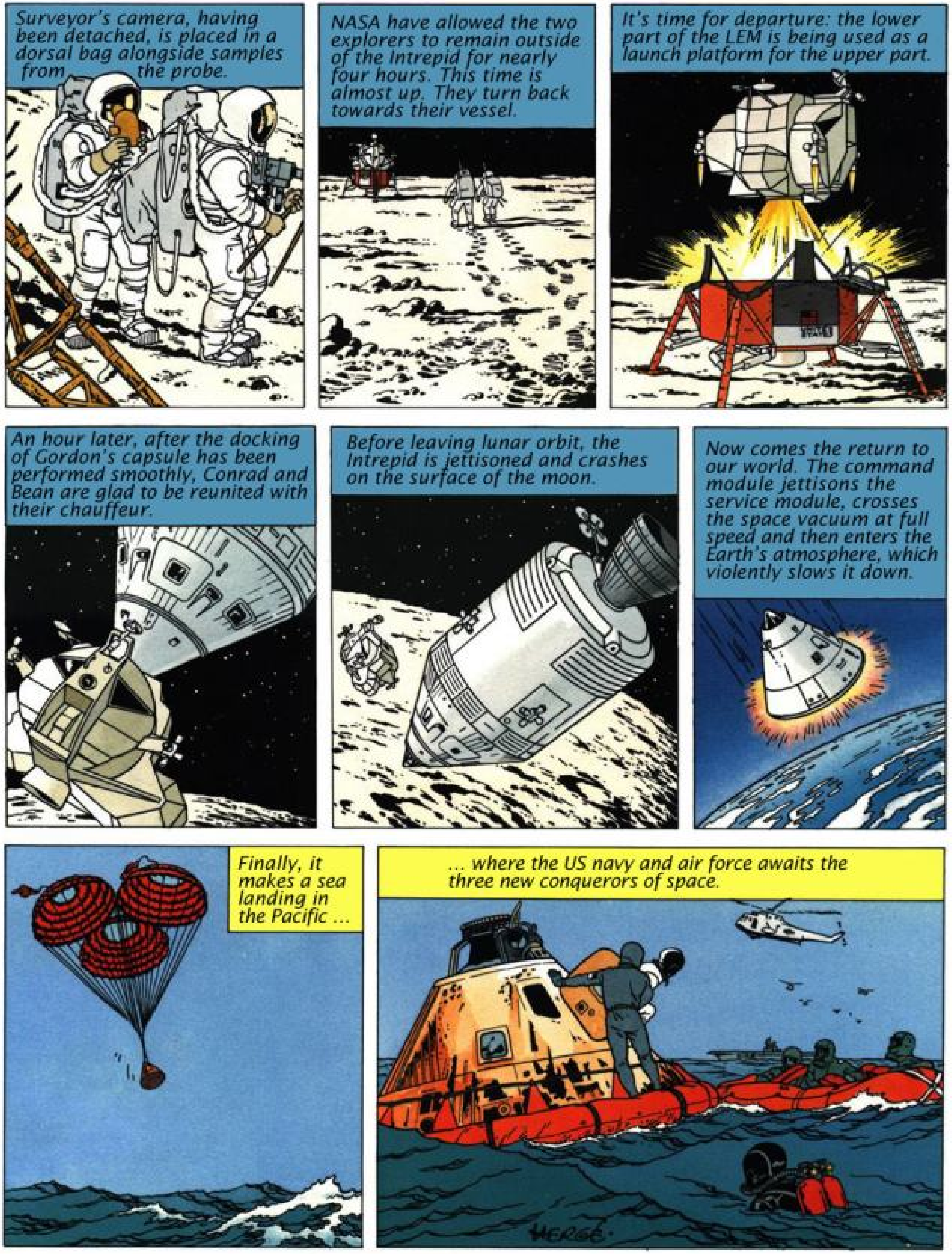
APOLLO 12 *by* HERGE

Created by Hergé in black and white for the weekly 'Paris-Match' (No. 1073 of 29th November, 1969)



And from the thrust of the third-stage rockets, the space ship is propelled towards the moon.
14:40
The Yankee Clipper module separates from the third stage. During this, as the panels open to reveal the LEM 'Intrepid', the Yankee Clipper swivels 180°.
This operation now complete, it docks with the LEM, which has separated from the third stage. It will later be placed in solar orbit.
Tuesday 18th, 3:06. After being placed in elliptical orbit, Apollo 12 is now in circular orbit around the moon.
We're passing just above the Sea of Fertility! Oh! What a beautiful crater!
5:46. Conrad and Bean board the LEM, which is separated from the service module where Gordon will wait...
So long, fellas!
A little later comes the lunar descent.
I'm locating my crater. Hey, there it is! ... Son of a gun, right down the middle of the road! Fantastic!
18 feet ...
17 feet ...
14 feet ...
7 feet ...
HOORAY!
They've done it!


Boy ! I'm eager to get out ! . . .
Keep quiet Bean, otherwise we'll seriously consider 'recycling' you !
Five hours later, Conrad sets foot on the Moon.
WHOOPIE!... Man, that may have been a small step for Armstrong, but it's a long one for me!
UNITED STATES
A few moments later, Conrad and Bean unload the television camera that will be used to transmit the images of their exploit.
After Bean joins his companion, they set about their first task of collecting lunar stones and putting the scientific instruments in place.
For their second expedition, Conrad and Bean are to go to a wreck lying at the bottom of a crater : that of Surveyor -3.
There she is ! . . .
Going ahead first, Bean care-fully descends the wall of the crater. The original colour of Surveyor -3 has disappeared; it is now pale ochre.
I'd say she was cooked by the Sun !


Surveyor's camera, having been detached, is placed in a dorsal bag alongside samples from the probe.
NASA have allowed the two explorers to remain outside of the Intrepid for nearly four hours. This time is almost up. They turn back towards their vessel.
It's time for departure: the lower part of the LEM is being used as a launch platform for the upper part.
An hour later, after the docking of Gordon's capsule has been performed smoothly, Conrad and Bean are glad to be reunited with their chauffeur.
Before leaving lunar orbit, the Intrepid is jettisoned and crashes on the surface of the moon.
Now comes the return to our world. The command module jettisons the service module, crosses the space vacuum at full speed and then enters the Earth's atmosphere, which violently slows it down.
Finally, it makes a sea landing in the Pacific ...
... where the US navy and air force awaits the three new conquerors of space.